

K-72

Sterling Castle
105-107 South Mill Street, Chestertown
c. 1854

105-107 South Mill Street is intimately connected with the histories of 101 and 103 South Mill Street as they are all located on the southwest half of lot No. 84 in Chestertown.

In the chain of title and tax assessment for this property there appears to be only one residence from the first transaction to 1854 when Thomas Lorrain McClean sold it to Charles Davis.¹ McClean inherited it after the death of Anna Maria McClean who had owned the property in 1841.² In the assessment of that year the one house on Anna's part of lot No. 84 was occupied by the Reverend G. Heritage. It was appraised at the time for \$600, the same amount paid for it in 1823.

By the time Charles Davis wrote his will in 1866, he had acquired two houses and lots on High Street, one of which was occupied by his son Charles. He had also built 105-107 South Mill Street. To his daughter Mary Anna Davis, he bequeathed "that part of my new house with lands now rented to P. T. McN Thomas" (107 South Mill). It appears that he had lived in the other half of the new house (105 South Mill) and bequeathed it to his daughter Sally. His son John lived in the old house (103 South Mill) adjoining.³

Charles Davis' double house was built on a brick foundation and had four bays on the facade with the inner two bays having doors with transoms. Three dormer windows with 6/6 sash and a beveled cornice, returning

slightly in the front, completed facade. The dormers are very similar to the dormers on the back of the Baker House, 119 High Street, built in 1876 and several others built between 1830-70.

Behind the 1-1/2 story dwelling there was a two bay, one story wing set at right angles on the northeastern side. Behind the other half there was a two bay leanto. All four chimneys had their fireplace backs exposed.

The interior space was apparently divided unevenly, with one front room and one back room. In the back corner of each front room was an enclosed stair to a vestibule and two small chambers. In 105 South Mill Street there was a third space in the 'A' roof of the back section, accessible from a ladder adjoining the fireplace.

One curious feature of the back room of 107 South Mill Street is the presence of weatherboard on the inner wall, suggesting there was a period of time before that room was constructed.

Sally Davis acquired her sister's half interest in the property prior to her death in 1916. Before that Sally and/or her sister Mary Anna had built the duplex on the corner of Mill and Cannon Streets in the space remaining on their part of lot No. 84. In Sally's will of 1916, 105-107 South Mill Street is described as "now occupied by Mr. E. G. Nickerson and Mr. James E. Everett, who rent from me as tenants." 109-111 South Mill Street (the newer duplex) is described as "occupied by Miss Nettie Russell and . . . Mr. John L. Hudson." These two houses were bequeathed to her nieces and great nieces respectively.⁴

Between 1916 and 1959, 105-107 South Mill Street remained a tenement and gradually deteriorated. Maynard P. White, Jr. and Kathleen Bracket purchased the house just prior to their wedding in 1959 and began the work of restoring and rehabilitating the house into a single family dwelling.⁵

1. Land Records, Lib. JFG 2, fol. 26.
2. Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 43.
3. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 376.
4. Wills, Lib. JRC 1, fol. 338.
5. A mantel from "Angels Rest" was installed during the rehabilitation.

K-72 Sterling Castle
105-107 S. Mill St.
Chestertown, Md.
private residence

late 18th century

Sterling Castle is an excellent example of ^alate 18th century frame, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story, tradesman's dwelling. A full title record is available and it is in restored condition as is the dwelling next to it, 103 S. Mill.

1500722204
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K 72

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sterling Castle

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 105-107 S. Mill St.

First

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Md. 21620 — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—MILITARY

—OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Maynard P, Jr. and Kathleen B. White

Telephone #: 301-778-2363

STREET & NUMBER

105-107 S. Mill St.

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: WHG 61

Folio #: 602

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown,

STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-72

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

105-107 or Sterling Castle, is located on the SE side of Mill St., near mid-block, between High and Cannon Streets in Chestertown. It is set on the old brick sidewalk and is close to both neighboring houses with a deep back yard.

It is a 1½ story, clapboard sided house, 2 rooms wide. The house sits on a low brick foundation with only crawl space under part of the house. The lower story windows are large, double hung, 12/12 and there are 2 front doors ^{WITH A LIGHT TRANSOM} between the windows. The facade 3 dormers on the A roof are 6/6 double hung. Behind the High St. front room is a 1½ story wing in the opposite direction without dormers. Off the Cannon St. front room is an extension of the A roof / shed type. The original siding of the main house can be seen in this room indicating it was added later.

The front wing has restored brick chimneys within either end as does each rear section on the SE sides. All 4 chimneys are exposed at their bases and the fireplaces are in working condition. The wide pine floors exist in all but 1 room of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-72

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1771 to 1783

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First indications of a house on lot #84 are in the deed of 4/19/1756 when Charles Scott sold $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot #84 and the dwelling house on it, for 5 shillings, to Robert Sterling who had married Scott's daughter, Anne. This exchange amounted to a gift.

On 5/23/1759 Sterling deeded the house and many furnishings to Richard Porter, "Chirurgeon" of Chestertown as repayment of a debt of 150 pounds. This debt was to the Bristol, England merchants of Messrs. Sedgeley and Hillbourne and Porter had assumed it. The name "Sterling Castle" seems to originate from this ownership and it is referred to as such in deeds well through the mid-19th C. On July 15, 1771 (after one prior owner, Geo. Abington), Emmanuel Josiah, a Philadelphia merchant sells the half lot #84 and dwelling house to Ralph Storey, shipwright of Chester-town for 100 pounds sterling, its lowest value to date. This would indicate poor repair, it having been rental property.

On 8/20/1783 Storey, now of Fells Pt., Balto., wills the house and half lot #84, "Sterling Castle" to Wm. Storey, his son.

As William and his wife died before his father, a ^{grand} daughter, Elizabeth Storey, married to John Jones, received the property. On July 7, 1823 John and Elizabeth Jones of Baltimore County sold the house and half lot #84, known as "Sterling Castle" to a Margaret McClean of Kent County for \$600.

It is probably between 1771 and 1783, when owned by Storey, an experienced ship's carpenter that the present house was extensively remodelled to its present form that of a simple tradesman's house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-72

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

East side of Mill St., fronting on Mill 52' with a depth of 133' more or less, improved by a double frame dwelling.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

same as 10

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathleen B. White, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/ City of Chestertown

DATE

Sept. 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

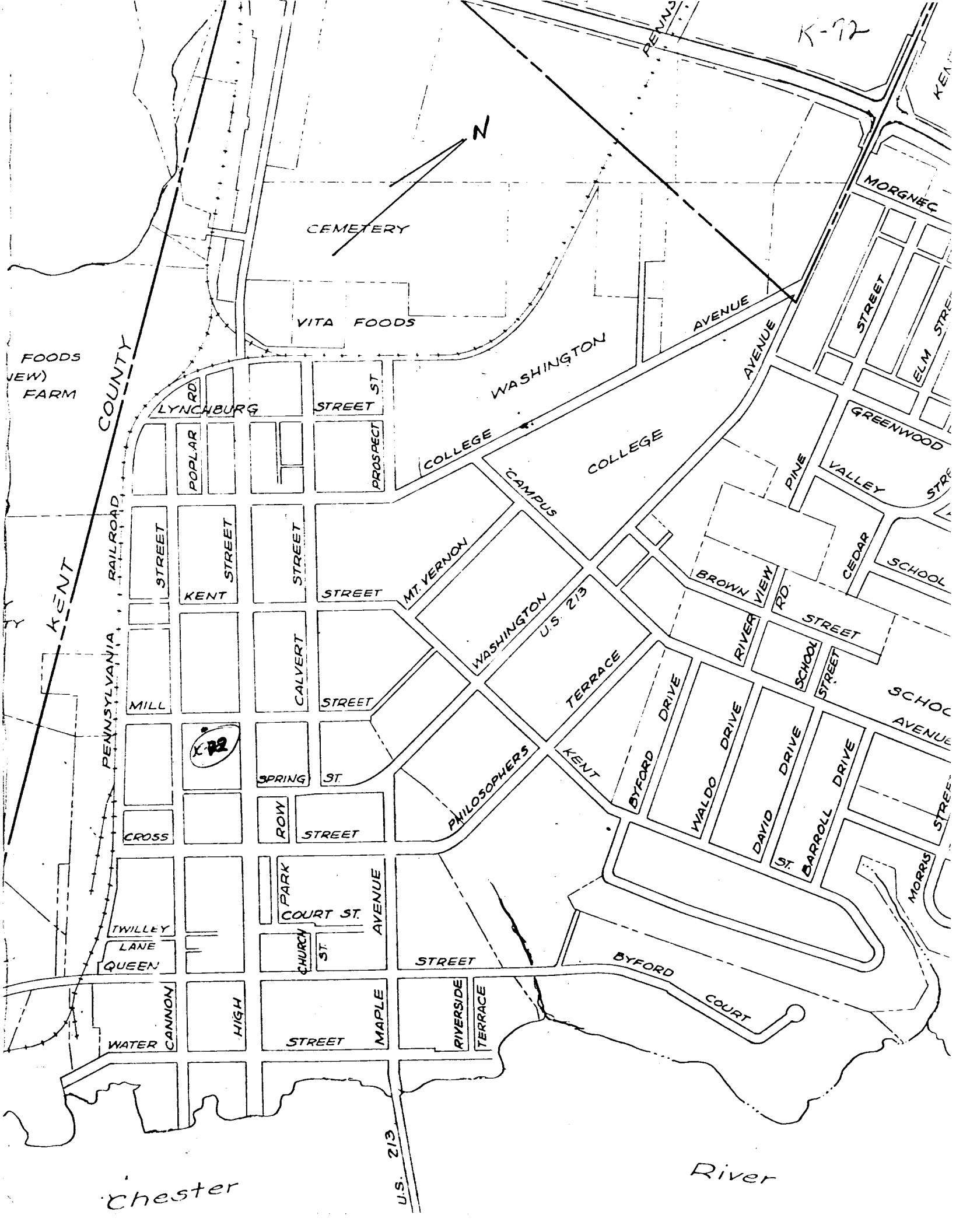
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

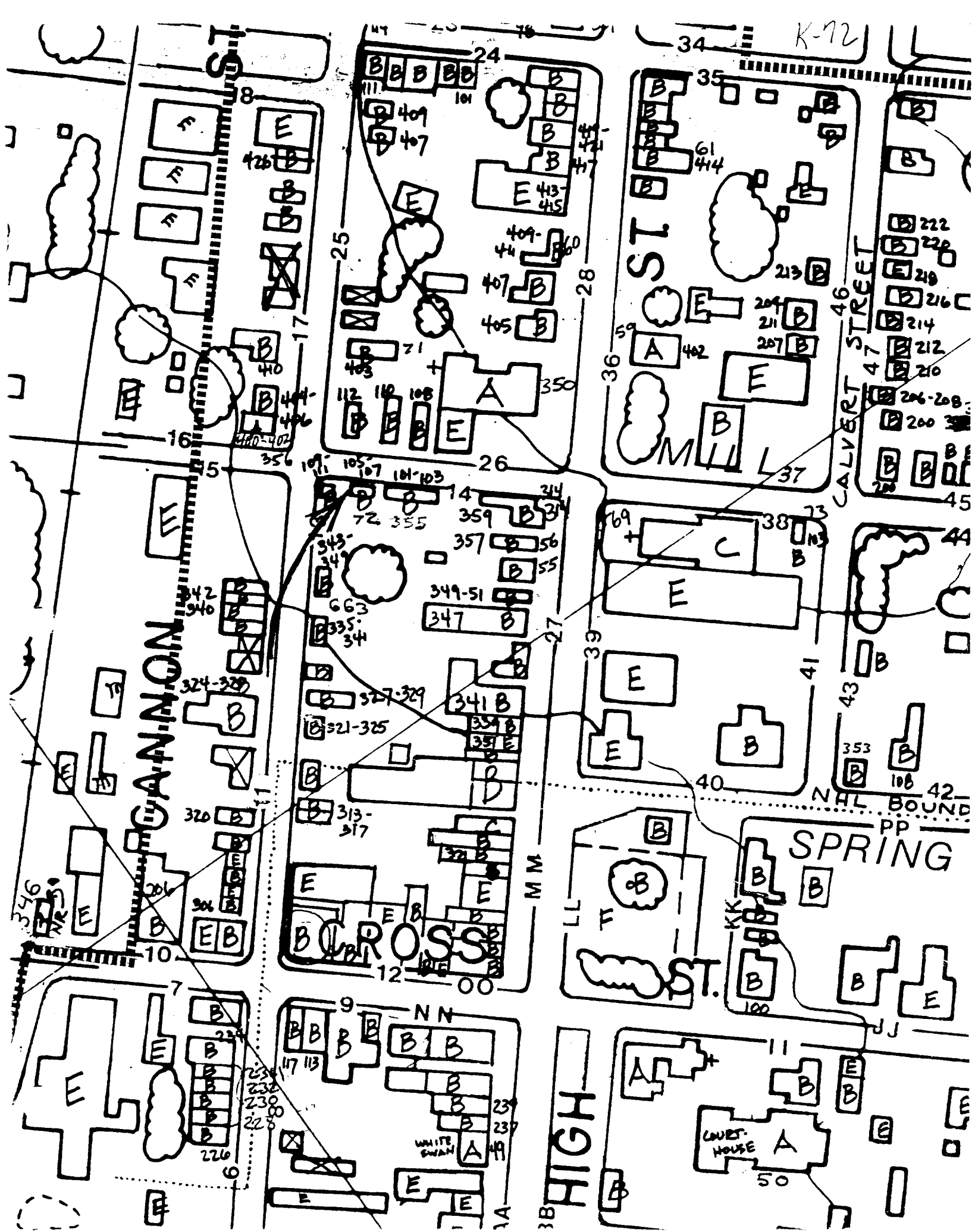
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

STERLING CASTLE 105-107 S. Mill St.

- WHG 61/600-02 9/23/59 Maynard P. White Jr. and Kathleen J. Brackett to Preston P. Heck, attorney and back to Maynard P. White, Jr. and Kathleen B. White
- WHG 59/176 4/11/59 Katherine Smith to Maynard P. White Jr. and Kathleen B. Brackett
- APR 8/218 5/31/21 Mildred G. Prettyman, Arthur R. Prettyman, husband, western half of lot and house to Katherine Smith \$700.00
L. Reba Hackett and W. Claude Hackett, eastern half of lot and house to Katherine Smith, \$700.
- APR3/525 9/24/18 A.R. Prettyman and M.G. Prettyman, wife, to L. Reba Hackett, all eastern half of house, land premises.
- APR3/526 9/23/18 L. Reba Hackett and J. Claude Hackett, husband, to M.G. Prettyman, all western half house, land, premises.
- Will
JCRL/338 12/12/16 will of Sallie Davis leaves entire house and lot to granddaughters, Mrs. Arthur Prettyman and Mrs. Claud Hackett and their heirs.
- Will
JFLL/376 2/5/66 will of Charles Davis to daughter Sally, "house and lot I now occupy."
- JFG 2/26 1/28/54 T. L. McClean to Charles Davis for \$525 "which property was formerly called 'Sterling Castle.'"
- Will
JFB 1/43 4/10/30 of Margaret McClean - part of lot #84 and house known as "Sterling Castle" to daughter Anna Maria McClean during her life, and after her death to T.L. McClean.
- TW 4/278 7/7/23 John and Elizabeth Jones sell house and half lot #84 known as "Sterling Castle" to Margaret McClean.
- Will
TW 4/278 8/20/83 Ralph Storey of Fells Pt. wills house and half lot #84, known as Sterling Castle, to son William. William and wife died before father, Ralph, so property came to ^{grand}daughter, Elizabeth.
- DD 3/432 7/15/71 Emmanuel Josiah, Philadelphia merchant, to Ralph Storey for £ 100 sterling, its lowest value to date. Entry dated 7/17/71 - George Layburn, Chestertown attorney with power of attorney for Josiah, grants this deed to Storey.
1771-83 remodelled to present form by Storey, shipwright.
- 8/372 5/25/59 Richard & Sarah Porter to George Abington, £140 sterling, half lot #84 and house.
- 8/370 5/23/59 Robert Sterling deeds house and many furnishings to Richard Porter "Chirurgeon". Porter has assumed Sterling's debt of £ 150 to English merchants.

8/33	4/19/56	Charles Scott, half lot #84 and house for 5 shillings to a Robert Sterling, who married Anne Scott, daughter, thus a gift.
5/71	3/30/38	Capt. Ebenezer Blackiston to Charles Scott, lot #84 and improvements for £ 6,000 merchantable tobacco, which cost about £ 6 Or 7 a ton or £ 24 at most, probably no house on lot.
4/36	8/28/30	Simon Wilmer and Dorcas, wife, #84 to Capt. E. Blackiston and wife for £ 10 sterling.







K 62 Sterling Castle
105-107 S. Main

1/77 W



K 72 Sterling Castle

105-107 S. Mull

1/77 W + S



ST

134

KENT CTY

K-72

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

1703 3/68